

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to. Claims 26 to 29 and 31 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 11 to 17, 19, 24 to 28, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,413,073) in view of Schwaiger (DE 3625590) and Leiber (WO 9905397). Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al. in view of Schwaiger, Leiber and Nishiyama et al. (U.S. Patent 4,834,036).

Claims 22 to 23 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 22 has been amended to include all of the limitations of its base claim 11, which has been canceled. Claims 16 and 28 have also been canceled. Claims 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 24, 27 and 29 to 31 have been amended such that claims 12 to 15, 17, 19, 23, 24 to 27 and 29 to 31 all directly or indirectly depend from claim 22. Claims 26, 27, 29 and 31 have also been amended to correct the informalities identified in the Office Action. Thus, all of pending claims 12 to 15, 17, 19, 22 to 27 and 29 to 31 are submitted as being allowable.

Fig. 4 of the drawings has been amended such that reference character 9 more clearly identifies recess 9. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

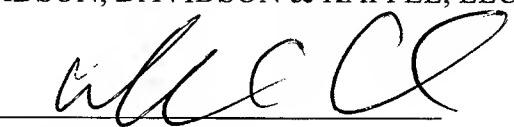
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully requests such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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